और उसे प्रोत्साहित करने के लिए अन्य बातों के साथ-साथ किए गए अनेक नीतिगत उपायों में निम्नलिखित शामिल हैं :

(क) सरकारी क्षेत्र के लिए आरक्षित उद्योगों की सूची में से लोहा और इस्पात उद्योग को हटाना।

(ख) लोहा और इस्पात उद्योग को अनिवार्य लाइसेंसिंग के प्रावधानों से छूट देना।

(ग) विदेशी निवेश के उद्देश्य के लिए प्राथमिकता वाले उद्योगों की सूची में लोहा और इस्पात उद्योग को शामिल करना।

Modernisation of Rourkela Steel Plant

2144. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the investment made in the expansion and modernisation of integrated public sector steel plants during Eighth Plan;

(b) the details of the expansion took place in Rourkela Steel Plant;

(c) the money spent on the modernisation of that steel plant in Eighth Plan; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) has invested an amount of Rs. 6935.30 crores on the modernisation of its plants at Durgapur, Rourkela and Bokaro during the VIII Plan.

(b) The modernisation project of Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) of SAIL is being implemented in two phases i.e. Phase I and Phase II. Major production facilities of Phase I have already been completed. Major production units of Phase II are in advance stage of completion except modification of Hot Strip Mill and Reheating Furnaces which are likely to be completed by September, 1997 and October, 1998 respectively.

(c) and (d) An expenditure of Rs. 3125.52 crores on RSP modernisation project has been incurred by SAIL during VIII Plan as detailed below:

Year	Expenditure (Rs. cores)
1992-93	350.88
1993-94	457.07
1994-95	870.63
1995-96	869.98
1996-97	576.96

Import of Steel products

2145. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of steel products imported during the current financial year till date;

(b) the expenditure incurred on this so far;

(c) the names of the agencies those who have imported these products; and

(d) the names of the countries from where these products have been imported?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) and (b) Estimated financial steel imports during April-June '97 is 0.41 million tonnes.

(c) Major importers of steel during 1997-98 included Ispat Industries, Uttam Steels Ltd., Jindal Iron & Steel, Bajaj Auto, Maruti Ltd., STEELCO Gujarat, Mahindra & Mahindra, TELCO, Raymond Steels, Nagarjuna Steels, and others.

(d) Steel was imported mainly from the following countries in the recent past:

CIS, Germany, Japan, France; U.K.; Belgium, USA, South Africa, Iran Holland, Slovak Rep., Spain, etc.

Research and development in the Steel Sector

2146. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the amount earmarked on research and Development in the Steel sector during Ninth Plan;

(b) whether enough attention is not being paid in research and development (R&D);

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken to lay proper emphasis in that area?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) to (d) The steel units in public sector and some units in private sector usually provide funds for their R&D programmes. However, in order to give boost to R&D efforts in the steel sector, Government have also approved an allocation of Rs. 150 crores per annum to be financed through Steel Development Fund (SDF).

Increase in prices of SAIL

2147. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Steel prices have been increased;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) its impact on production and demand?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) to (c) SAIL has increased the listed prices in certain categories of mild steel products w.e.f. 01/07/1997. While effecting the price increase, factors such as overall market scenario, competitors prices, landed cost of imports, cost of production etc. have been taken into account. Therefore, there has been no significant impact on production and demand.

Revival plan of Indian Iron and Steel Company Limited

2148. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) since when the Indian Iron and Steel Company Limited is sick;

(b) the cumulative losses suffered by it;

(c) whether there is any proposal to revive the plant; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) Indian Iron and Steel Co. Ltd. (IISCO) was declared a sick industrial company by the Board of Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) on 17th August, 1994.

(b) The cumulative loss of IISCO as on 31/03/1997 is Rs. 1159 crore (provisional).

(c) and (d) Steel Authority of India Limited have submitted a proposal to revive IISCO in a joint venture partnership with M/s Tvazhpromexport (TPE) of Russia. This proposal is dependent on the use of Rupee